

REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF MERCER COUNTY SHERIFF

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2008**



**CRIT LUALLEN
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE MERCER COUNTY SHERIFF

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2008**

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the Mercer County Sheriff's audit for the year ended December 31, 2008. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the revenues, expenditures, and excess fees in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

Financial Condition:

Excess fees increased by \$1,271 from the prior year, resulting in excess fees of \$35,351 as of December 31, 2008. Revenues increased by \$56,102 from the prior year and expenditures increased by \$54,831.

Leases:

Lease agreements totaled \$8,386 as of December 31, 2008.

Report Comment:

The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Deposits:

The Sheriff's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities.

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CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable John D. Trisler, Mercer County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Chris Kehrt, Mercer County Sheriff
Members Of The Mercer County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the accompanying statement of revenues, expenditures, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the Sheriff of Mercer County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2008. This financial statement is the responsibility of the Sheriff. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for County Fee Officials issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in note 1, the Sheriff's office prepares the financial statement on a regulatory basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the revenues, expenditures, and excess fees of the Sheriff for the year ended December 31, 2008, in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated July 1, 2009 on our consideration of the Mercer County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.



The Honorable John D. Trisler, Mercer County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Chris Kehrt, Mercer County Sheriff
Members Of The Mercer County Fiscal Court

Based on the results of our audit, we have presented the accompanying comment and recommendation, included herein, which discusses the following report comment:

- The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Sheriff and Fiscal Court of Mercer County, Kentucky, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these interested parties.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crit Luallen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

July 1, 2009

MERCER COUNTY
CHRIS KEHRT, SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2008

Revenues

State Grants		\$	2,793
State - Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund			22,653
State Fees For Services:			
Finance and Administration Cabinet	\$	35,391	
Sheriff Security Fees		11,150	
Fees for Fiscal Court		11,350	
Arrest Fees		3,562	
In Lieu of Taxes		<u>1,397</u>	62,850
Fiscal Court			73,194
County Clerk - Delinquent Taxes			6,071
Commission On Taxes Collected			345,028
Fees Collected For Services:			
Auto Inspections		4,310	
Accident and Police Reports		952	
Serving Papers		47,450	
Carrying Concealed Deadly Weapon Permits		3,515	
Conveying Convicts		5,702	
Add On Fees		46,253	
Advertising		3,375	
Refund-Insurance-Cruiser Accident		1,608	
Tax Bill Research		353	
Miscellaneous		<u>278</u>	113,796
Interest Earned			2,008
Borrowed Money:			
State Advancement			<u>200,000</u>
Total Revenues			<u>828,393</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

MERCER COUNTY
CHRIS KEHRT, SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008
(Continued)

Expenditures

Operating Expenditures and Capital Outlay:

Personnel Services-

Deputies' Salaries	\$ 372,990
Part-Time Salaries	24,188
Other Salaries	1,549

Contracted Services-

Advertising	220
Communications	12,974
Tax Bill Preparation	5,080

Supplies and Materials:

Conveying Convicts	7,778
Office Materials and Supplies	6,480
Officers Supplies	4,670
Uniforms	9,089
Miscellaneous	195
Bloodtest Kits	177

Other Charges:

Training	1,659
Dues	766
Postage	4,682
Fees Paid to Fiscal Court	11,350

Auto Expense:

Gasoline	36,905
Maintenance and Repairs	17,423

Debt Service:

State Advancement	\$ 200,000
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Total Expenditures	718,175
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Net Revenues	110,218
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Less: Statutory Maximum	74,020
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Excess Fees	36,198
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Less: Training Incentive Benefit	847
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Excess Fees Due County for 2008	35,351
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Payments to Fiscal Court - March 20, 2009	35,200
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Balance Due Fiscal Court	\$ 151
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

MERCER COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2008

Note 1. Summary Of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

A fee official uses a fund to report on the results of operations. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fee official uses a fund for fees to account for activities for which the government desires periodic determination of the excess of revenues over expenditures to facilitate management control, accountability, and compliance with laws.

B. Basis Of Accounting

KRS 64.820 directs the Fiscal Court to collect any amount, including excess fees, due from the Sheriff as determined by the audit. KRS 134.310 requires the Sheriff to settle excess fees with the Fiscal Court at the time he files his final settlement with the Fiscal Court.

The financial statement has been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Under this regulatory basis of accounting revenues and expenditures are generally recognized when cash is received or disbursed with the exception of accrual of the following items (not all-inclusive) at December 31 that may be included in the excess fees calculation:

- Interest Receivable
- Collection On Accounts Due From Others For 2008 Services
- Reimbursements For 2008 Activities
- Tax Commissions Due From December Tax Collections
- Payments Due Other Governmental Entities For Payroll
- Payments Due Vendors For Goods Or Services Provided In 2008

The measurement focus of a fee official is upon excess fees. Remittance of excess fees is due to the County Treasurer in the subsequent year.

C. Cash And Investments

At the direction of the Fiscal Court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the Sheriff's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

MERCER COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
DECEMBER 31, 2008
(Continued)

Note 2. Employee Retirement System

The county officials and employees have elected to participate in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), pursuant to KRS 78.530 administered by the board of trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems. This is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit pension plan that covers all eligible full-time employees and provides for retirement, disability, and death benefits to plan members.

Benefit contributions and provisions are established by statute. Nonhazardous covered employees are required to contribute 5.0 percent of their salary to the plan. The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 16.17 percent for the first six months and 13.50 percent for the last six months of the year. The County's contribution rate for hazardous employees was 33.87 percent for the first six months and 29.50 percent for the last six months of the year.

Benefits fully vest on reaching five years of service for nonhazardous employees. Aspects of benefits for nonhazardous employees include retirement after 27 years of service or age 65. Aspects of benefits for hazardous employees include retirement after 20 years of service or age 55.

Historical trend information pertaining to CERS' progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented in the Kentucky Retirement Systems' annual financial report which is a matter of public record. This report may be obtained by writing the Kentucky Retirement Systems, 1260 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-6124, or by telephone at (502) 564-4646.

Note 3. Deposits

The Mercer County Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as required by KRS 66.480(1)(d). According to KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the Sheriff and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the Sheriff's deposits may not be returned. The Mercer County Sheriff does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather follows the requirements of KRS 41.240(4). As of December 31, 2008, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

MERCER COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
DECEMBER 31, 2008
(Continued)

Note 4. Leases

The Sheriff's office is committed to a lease agreement with Pitney Bowes for a postage meter. The agreement requires a quarterly payment of \$134 for 18 quarters to be completed on April 20, 2011. The total remaining balance of the agreement was \$1,206 as of December 31, 2008.

The Sheriff's office is committed to a lease agreement with Imagistics for a copier. The agreement requires a monthly payment of \$171 for 60 months to be completed on June 14, 2011. The remaining balance of the agreement was \$5,130 as of December 31, 2008.

The Sheriff's office is committed to a lease agreement with Government Utilities Technology Services, Inc. (GUTS) for computer software. The agreement requires a monthly payment of \$150 for 24 months to be completed on September 1, 2010. The total remaining balance of the agreement was \$2,050 as of December 31, 2008.

Note 5. Grant Account

The Sheriff's office received a \$5,000 grant during the year ended December 31, 2004 from Purdue Pharma Technologies. Grant proceeds are to be used for conducting prescription drug investigations with the primary focus on the abuse and diversion of Oxycontin ® and does not have to be included in the Sheriff's excess fee calculation. The balance in the fund at the beginning of the year was \$500. Receipts and expenditures for 2008 totaled \$2,793. The unexpended grant balance was \$500 as of December 31, 2008.

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REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable John D. Trisler, Mercer County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Chris Kehrt, Mercer County Sheriff
Members Of The Mercer County Fiscal Court

**Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards**

We have audited the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Excess Fees - Regulatory Basis of the Mercer County Sheriff for the year ended December 31, 2008, and have issued our report thereon dated July 1, 2009. The Sheriff's financial statement is prepared in accordance with a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Mercer County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However as discussed below, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with the regulatory basis of accounting such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the entity's financial statement that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control over financial reporting. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying comment and recommendation to be a significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting.

- The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting (Continued)

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statement will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we consider the significant deficiency described above to be a material weakness.

Compliance And Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Mercer County Sheriff's financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2008, is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

The Mercer County Sheriff's response to the finding identified in our audit is included in the accompanying comment and recommendation. We did not audit the Sheriff's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Mercer County Fiscal Court, and the Department for Local Government and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully Submitted,



Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

July 1, 2009

COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

MERCER COUNTY
CHRIS KEHRT, SHERIFF
COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

For The Year Ended December 31, 2008

INTERNAL CONTROL - MATERIAL WEAKNESSES:

The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

During the review of controls over receipts and disbursements, we noted that the Sheriff's office lacks adequate segregation of duties. The bookkeeper prepares the daily checkout sheets, deposit tickets, disbursement checks, bank reconciliations, and quarterly reports. The bookkeeper also takes all deposits to the bank. The Sheriff or a designated employee does not perform reviews on the financial information managed by the bookkeeper. In an effort to decrease the risk of misappropriation or financial statement misstatement, we recommend the Sheriff segregate some of these duties among different employees or implement some compensating controls to help offset this internal control weakness. Some examples of segregated duties or compensating controls are as follows:

- Sheriff request an office clerk perform the bank reconciliations,
- Sheriff document a periodic review of the checkout sheets, deposit tickets,
- Sheriff document a monthly review of the bank reconciliations,
- Sheriff document random cash counts on the deposit tickets,
- Sheriff document the review of the quarterly reports,
- Sheriff takes the deposits to the bank, and
- Sheriff approves all major disbursements before check is issued.

Sheriff's Response: We will reconsider how our Sheriff's office lessens risk with normal office duties; this should show more checks and balances.

